CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING 10.11.2015:

President Paul Elliot opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and welcomed the 15 members present. He invited **Philip Mackey** to give his presentation of **France: The Golden Years.**

The first half covered the stamps from 1849 to 1876. During this time the stamps were produced due to the autocratic machinations of one man – Louis Napoleon. He began as Prime Minister and then became President and later Emperor. The first issues were the Ceres head which were produced privately. In 1853 the head of Louis Napoleon was introduced on the stamps. The early stamps were imperforate with perforations introduced in 1854. The display was carefully written up with many examples of essays, proofs and trials being shown. There were a number of forgeries and fakes on show as well as postage dues and blocks of stamps.

The second half featured postal history used for maritime and internal use. There was great variety on display – telegraph stamps, blocks on cover, newspaper rate and camel post. Philip introduced the term 'Janus" Philately – mail into France with foreign stamps such as from America and mail sent the other way with French stamps used. There was a French postmark on a British stamp as the letter had been posted from Guernsey.

The presentation and the material on show were both superb and members enjoyed both the talk and the viewing. John Schofield, who is a collector of French stamps, gave the vote of thanks and the meeting closed at 21.45 hours.

Graham Harker,
Honorary Assistant Secretary, Croydon Philatelic Society
11.11.2015